

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Previously Presented)** An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding hIrelp comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

2. **(Original)** A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1.

3. **(Previously Presented)** An isolated host cell transformed with the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1.

4. **(Original)** The cell of Claim 3, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

5. **(Original)** The cell of Claim 3, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell.

6. **(Cancelled)**

7. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated transfected cell producing the protein encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of Claim 1. 6.

8-10. **(Cancelled)**

11. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
- b) a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,
- c) a polynucleotide encoding a protein comprising a biologically active fragment of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment ~~comprises at least 10 contiguous amino acid residues of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 having~~ has an activity selected from the group consisting of biological activity kinase activity, endoribonuclease activity, and autophosphorylation activity, and

d) ~~a polynucleotide which is an allelic variant of the polynucleotide of a),~~
~~having biological activity an activity selected from the group consisting of kinase,~~
~~endoribonuclease, and autophosphorylation activity and,~~

e)——a polynucleotide which encodes a species homologue of the protein of b)
or c), having ~~biological activity~~ an activity selected from the group consisting of kinase
activity, endoribonuclease activity, and autophosphorylation activity.

12. **(Currently Amended)** An expression vector operably linked to the
polynucleotide of Claim 11. ~~An isolated polynucleotide of Claim 11 wherein said~~
~~polynucleotide is operably linked to an expression control sequence.~~

13. **(Currently Amended)** An isolated host cell transformed with the vector of Claim
2, wherein the polynucleotide is operably linked to vector expression sequences. ~~a~~
~~polynucleotide of Claim 1.~~

14. **(Original)** The host cell of Claim 13, wherein said cell is a mammalian cell.

15. **(Original)** The host cell of Claim 13, wherein the cell is a bacterial cell.

16. **(Original)** A process for producing a protein encoded by a polynucleotide of
Claim 12, which process comprises:

- a) growing a culture of the host cell of Claim 13 in a suitable culture medium;
- and
- b) purifying said protein from the culture.

17-30. **(Cancelled)**